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tages of her position. Yet, though the author evidently ardently hopes this may be the solution of affairs in the East, there is throughout his chapters an attitude of doubt born of the numerous disappointed hopes with which every observer of the Orient is familiar.

The last one-third of the book is taken up with a very valuable set of appendices, giving the recent treaties concerning the Far East, statistics as to naval equipment, studies of the foreign trade of China, the trade regulations and an excellent large map. For the student of Eastern affairs these are invaluable.

The book is an admirable presentation of the impressions of one of the closest observers of Oriental politics. The reader to fully appreciate the work must already have a fair knowledge of the Eastern situation. With such a background he will find this volume though a little anti-Japanese in tone, still on the whole clear, judicial and full of convincing statements of fact.

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Webb, Sidney, and Beatrice. *English Local Government from the Revolution to the Municipal Corporation Act: The Parish and the County.* Pp. xxv, 664. Price \$4.00. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1906.

This is a work of the greatest value and importance. When it shall have been completed,—and the earnest, scholarly work of its authors and their power of systematic presentation gives every hope that it will be satisfactorily completed,—but few fields of institutional history and practice will be provided with so adequate and suggestive a body of fundamental knowledge as the field of English local government and administration. This substantial volume describes the organization and history of the parish and county respectively, during the period lying between 1688 and 1835.

The characteristics that strike one most are the extent of the sources used, the freedom of the authors from preconceived theories, and their capacity to form theories or original views as they examine and classify their material. In their general treatment of the history of the parish, for instance, they turn aside alike from the militant anti-clericalism of Toulmin-Smith, the high church ecclesiastical dogmatism, and the vague derivations of the parish vestry from the old English village community, and devote themselves to an objective discussion of the documentary evidence actually forthcoming for this period. Thus the organization of the parish, with its boundaries, officers and vestry emerges in a comparatively clear, if not always consistent or uniform shape. The authors find that there have been on the whole three general types of parish government; that in which the work of local government was carried on by voluntary meetings of the inhabitants, appointing committees and engaging paid officers, that in which the work was carried on by a small body of the more well-to-do inhabitants, taking the unpaid parish offices in turn by common consent, and thirdly, that in which a "close vestry"

has obtained legal powers of self-perpetuation and local government and taxation. It is to an analysis and estimation of the success of these forms, and to the changes in them in the early nineteenth century, that the first book is devoted; drawing its information from hundreds of local records, and from casual references in general literature, the statutes, and legal decisions.

The description and history of the county which the authors make the subject of their second book, we should have placed first. Its officers were superior to those of the parish, its organization was more uniform. The lord lieutenant and the sheriff, the high constables and the coroners, and above all the justices of the peace had clearly ascertainable, if enormously varied, duties. Far the largest variety and extent of these duties was imposed upon the justices of the peace, and almost an even half of this whole volume is naturally and properly devoted to a history of the organization, personality, character and activities of these "men of all work" of the central government so far as it interested itself in local affairs.

One of the most admirable and useful features of this book is the reference and bibliographical material placed in the foot-notes. Every significant statement is given its authority, and information as to the source material on the subject is scattered throughout the whole work. Altogether it may be said that every student of English local history or administration will now have to read this book with care, and every such student is to be congratulated on having such a key to his subject.

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